

## **Assembly Bill No. 2131**

### **CHAPTER 280**

An act to add Section 1120.2 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to youthful offenders.

[Approved by Governor July 25, 1996. Filed with  
Secretary of State July 25, 1996.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 2131, W. Murray. Department of the Youth Authority: correctional education authority.

Under existing law, the Department of the Youth Authority has jurisdiction over all educational training and treatment institutions established and maintained in the state as correctional schools for the reception of wards of the juvenile court and other persons committed to the department. Existing law requires that the educational program of the department be responsive to the needs of all wards, including those who are educationally handicapped or limited-English-speaking wards.

This bill would establish within the Department of the Youth Authority a correctional education authority for the purposes of carrying out the education and training of wards committed to the youth authority. The correctional education authority would be required to adopt standards of proficiency in basic skills for wards attending any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, and would be required to meet the model curriculum standards adopted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The bill would provide that differential standards and assessment procedures may be adopted for pupils who meet specified criteria, including wards for whom an individualized education program has been developed and for whom the regular instructional program has been modified or for wards who have been diagnosed with a learning handicap or disability. The correctional education authority would be authorized to issue diplomas of graduation from high school to wards who have completed the required course of study and meet the standards of proficiency in basic skills adopted by the correctional education authority. The bill would also authorize the authority to administer to wards the general educational development tests that have been approved by the State Board of Education. The bill would also provide that for purposes of receiving federal funds, the correctional education authority shall be deemed a local educational agency.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1120.2 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

1120.2. (a) There is in the Department of the Youth Authority a correctional education authority for the purpose of carrying out the education and training of wards committed to the youth authority.

(b) The course of study for wards attending any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall include those courses specified in Article 3 (commencing with Section 51220) of Chapter 2 of Part 28 of the Education Code. The course of study shall meet the model curriculum standards adopted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to Section 51226 of the Education Code.

(c) (1) The correctional education authority shall adopt standards of proficiency in basic skills for wards attending a course of study for any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

(2) Differential standards and assessment procedures may be adopted for wards for whom an individualized education program has been developed and for whom the regular instructional program has been modified or for wards who have been diagnosed with a learning handicap or disability.

(d) The correctional education authority may issue diplomas of graduation from high school to wards who have completed the required course of study and meet the standards of proficiency in basic skills adopted by the correctional education authority. The authority may also administer to wards the general educational development tests that have been approved by the State Board of Education.

(e) For purposes of receiving federal funds, the correctional education authority shall be deemed a local educational agency.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that the correctional education authority receive funding in the annual Budget Act as part of the Department of the Youth Authority in the same manner that the current education and training programs operated by the Department of the Youth Authority have been funded.

